A GALA CONCERT
THE ART OF
CANTOR MOISHE OYSher

Twenty Six Original Compositions
For the Entire Year

Side 1
1) a) Or Zorua LaTzadik
   b) Al Da'as Hamokom
2) Kol Nidre
3) V'nislach
4) a) S'Lach Noh
   b) Vayomer Hashem
5) Shehecheeyonu
6) Ya'ale
7) Omnom Keyn

Side 2
1) Ki Hine Kachomer
2) Shma Kolaynu
3) L'Dovid Mizmor
4) Happy Chanukah
5) Chanukah Brochos
6) Reg'n

Side 3
1) V'Lirushalayim Irchu
2) Yevonim
3) Cirba
4) Drei Dreidele
5) V'Hu Yashnaynu
6) Kiddush

Side 4
1) Ho Lachmo Anyo
2) V'Hi She'umdo
3) Dayenu
4) E'iyahu
5) Hallel
6) Ki Lo No'eh
7) Chad Gadyo

MOISHE OYSher

Moishe Oysher was born in Lipkon, Rumania, on March 8, 1906. He descended from a prominent family known for more than six generations of Cantors. While he was still a young child, his family emigrated to America, leaving Moishe behind in his Grandfather's care.

He attended an acting school called Habima where the famous playwright Eliezer Steinberg taught. It was then that Moishe's unique dramatic and singing talents were discovered. He was given a child's role in Steinberg's famous play "The Berdichiver Rav At The Courts of Heaven." Steinberg was impressed with Moishe's performance and encouraged him to pursue and further his unusual talents.

In 1921, Oysher emigrated to Canada where he was united with his father. His voice was in the process of changing, and in order to support himself, and his unemployed father, he worked as a dishwasher in a restaurant. A short time later Moishe's vocal talents returned to him. He made the acquaintance of Wolf Shumsky, an actor, and together they traveled to Winnipeg, performing in the Jewish Theatre. His theatrical debut was in Zolotarevsky's play "The Convert." In 1924, he joined the Montreal Jewish Theatre, and was also manager of dramas at the O.R.T. Jewish Culture Center.

Four years later, Oysher made his N.Y. debut in the Jewish theatre. Moishe was recommended to the theatre directors by the famous impresario Hillel Wichnin. He performed at various Jewish theatres in New York, including the famous Hopkinson Theatre in Brooklyn.

In 1930, he entertained at Boris Tomashevsky's theatre, and became the famous actor's protege. Tomashevsky would always refer to him as "my precious son." His fame as a great singer-actor spread all over the world.

In 1936, Zalman Zilberzweig visited South America and wrote that he heard people speaking of Oysher's performances, and humming his tunes.

1935 was when Oysher made his debut as a cantor at the Rumanishe shul on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. His renditions of the prayers shocked his listeners, who first thought that he was nothing more than a singer-actor.

Though Oysher continued his career as a cantor, he did not leave the theatre. During June 1942, the play "Bar Kochba" was staged at the Civic Opera House in Chicago, with an all-star cast headed by Moishe Oysher.

A year later, he signed a contract with the Chicago Opera as leading actor in a number of plays. Unfortunately, a heart attack caused him to break his contract.

For a few years thereafter he hosted a show on WMGM radio which attracted many listeners.

By 1958 he had suffered several additional heart attacks, and the doctors bade him slow down. He ignored his Doctor's advice and prepared for a big concert. In June of that year he appeared at New York's Town Hall performing as enthusiastically and as strenuously as ever, in spite of his dangerous condition.

In October 1958, he was visited at his home in New Rochelle by Zalman Zilberzweig, who related that during his visit with him, Moishe would constantly grab for his heart as if to quiet severe pain.

He wrote that Moishe Oysher was in a state of extreme depression at the time, and often spoke of his impending death.

Shortly thereafter, Oysher was hospitalized in New Rochelle with a very severe heart attack. He died on the twenty-seventh of November 1958.

Oysher's performances are still remembered by Jews all over the world. The feeling of that he put into each of his songs was such that one watching him felt that the scene was actually taking place.

These are of some of his choicest recordings, capturing the essence of Moishe Oysher. When one sits back and closes his eyes listening attentively, one can picture him in his fullest expressions, singing at the height of his career.

Special thanks to Cantor Victor Gelb of Congregation Eitz Chaim of Flatbush for his help in making possible the production of these Recordings.

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